

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAMA KO 00893 311011 Z

15

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 SAL-01 OMB-01 L-03 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-12 IO-12 RSR-01 /163 W
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R 301800 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6878
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 0893

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, ML, FR

SUBJECT: FRANCO- MALIAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR DALLIER TELLS ME THAT GOM HAS JUST REQUESTED ADVANCE OF ONE BILLION MF OUT OF TWO BILLION MF BUDGET SUBSIDY FRANCE HAS ALREADY PLEDGED. PURPOSE IS TO MEET THIS MONTH' S GOM SALARY PAYMENTS. MALIANS HAVE ALSO REQUESTED INCREASE IN FRENCH SUBSIDY FROM TWO BILLION MF TO FOUR BILLION MF. DALLIER HAS RECOMMENDED THIS INCREASE BE APPROVED BECAUSE OF DECREASE IN MALIAN TAX REVENUES FROM FARMERS AND HERDSMEN AS RESULT OF DROUGHT, AS WELL AS INCREASE IN FINANCIAL DEMANDS ON MALIAN GOVERNMENT FROM DROUGHT. GOF ALSO GIVING EXTRAORDINARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR DROUGHT RELIEF.

2. DALLIER SAYS MALIANS CLOSELY WATCHING FRENCH NEGOTIATIONS SCHEDULED WITH SO MANY OF FRANCE' S FORMER AFRICAN COLONIES FOR REVISION BASIC AGREEMENTS. HE SAYS THAT IF FRANCE MAKES CONCESSIONS TO ANY AFRICAN COUNTRY WHICH GOES FURTHER THAN THOSE ALREADY GRANTED TO MALI, GOM WILL IMMEDIATELY SEEK SIMILAR CHANGES IN FRANCO- MALIAN CONVENTION. ON MALIAN SIDE, BOUBACAR KANTE SECRETARY GENERAL MALIAN FOREIGN OFFICE, TELLS ME THAT
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PAGE 02 BAMAKO 00893 311011 Z

MALI WILL SOON PRESS GOF FOR REDUCTION FRENCH CONTROLS MALIAN INTERNAL ECONOMY NOW EXERCISED THROUGH FRENCH- DOMINATED BOARD OF DIRECTORS MALIAN CENTRAL BANK. KANTE SAID SCOPE OF BANK' S RESPONSIBILITIES SHOULD BE SHARPLY LIMITED TO CONTROL OVER EXTERNAL TRANSACTIONS. THIS IS FIRST TIME WE HAVE HEARD ANYTHING QUITE SO SPECIFIC FROM MALIAN OFFICIALS, BUT IT CERTAINLY FOLLOWS LINES OF THEIR THINKING AS WELL AS THAT OF OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES LINKED WITH FRANCE.

3. KANTE HAS ALSO INDICATED MALI ANXIOUS TO TAKE SOME DISTANCE FROM FRANCE ON INTERNATIONAL MONETARY POLICY. HE BELIEVES FRANCE AS MAJOR PARTICIPANT IN INTERNATIONAL MONETARY NEGOTIATIONS AND AS DEVELOPED COUNTRY HAS INTERESTS WHICH ARE SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT FROM MALI' S. HE COMPLAINS, HOWEVER, THAT AFRICAN POLICY STILL MADE IN MEETINGS OF FRENCH- SPEAKING AFRICAN FINANCE MINISTERS IN PARIS EACH YEAR BEFORE IMF. KANTE SAYS HE EXPECTS STRONG AFRICAN CONSENSUS ON MONETARY MATTERS TO BEGIN TO EMERGE DURING NEXT MONTH' S OAU- ECA SPONSORED CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND MONETARY MATTERS IN ABIDJAN. CONSENSUS WHICH EMERGES FROM THIS MEETING KANTE BELIEVE WILL CALL FOR MORE INDEPENDENT AFRICAN MONETARY POLICY AND WILL ALLOW MALI AND OTHER FRENCH- SPEAKING AFRICAN STATES " SAFELY" TO BEGIN TAKE POSITIONS DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF FRANCE.

BLAKE

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